no request for setting up a regional office at Pune seems to have been received by the Commission.

[*Translation*]

Forest Area

4361. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest area in the country at the time of independence;

(b) the extent to which it declined in each decade after independence; and

(c) the total area of land where afforestation work has been undertaken after independence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the 'Handbook of Forest Statistics 1961 the total forest area in the country at the time of independence (1946-47) was 34.762 million ha. (347,620 sq. kms.) and in 1953-54 it was 73.25 million ha.

(b) The Forest area during the following periods is as under:

1959-60	69.444 million ha. (Indian Forest Statistics 1958-59 — 1960-61)
1969-70	75.033 million ha. (India's Forests 1972)
1980-81	75.062 million ha. (India's Forests 1984)
1987	75.18 million ha. (SFR 1989)

(c) Total area of land where afforestation work has been undertaken from 1st Five Year Plan to the end of the 7th Five Year Plan is 17 million ha.

[*English*]

Implementation of Three Language Formula

4362. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States who have implemented the three language formula;

(b) whether the Union Goevrnment propose to allocate special assistance to such State Governments who could not implement the three language formula due to financial constraints; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) With the exception of Tamil Nadu, which is implementing a Two Language Formula, all the States have accepted the Three Language Formula in principle. The extent of implementation varies from State to State.

(b) and (c) The Central Government have taken the following measures for assisting the States in implementing the Three Language Formula:—

(i) Training facilties for language teachers at school stage is provided (a) through Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and its regional centres located at Delhi, Hyderabad, Mysore, Guwahati and Shillong, to Hindi teachers belonging to non-Hindi speaking areas and (b) through Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore and its regional centres at Mysore, Patiala, Pune and Bhubaneswar to teachers of other modern Indian Languages. Two Urdu Research and Training Centres at Solan and Lucknow are also imparting training for Urdu teaching.

(ii) The Central Government extends financial assistance to Non-Hindi speaking States/UTs for appointment of Hindi teachers.

(iii) Financial assistance is given to States for setting up Hindi Teachers Training Colleges.

Agreement between University Grants Commission and National Book Trust

4363. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was signed between the University Grants Commission and the National Book Trust to integrate the schemes for production of books for higher education sector in both the organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a National Committee has been constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the composition and objectives of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below:

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the National Book Trust and the University Grants Commission on 24-7-1991 inter-alia provides as under:

"The UGC would continue to provide assistance to authors under its existing scheme for Preparation of University Level Books by Indian Authors, while the NBT will continue to operate its scheme for the Subsidised Publication of Books, subject to the modifications arising from or required in accordance with the Aide Memoire of discussions between the N.B.T. and the U.G.C. and the Memorandum of Understanding.

The National Book Trust would constitute a National Committee of not more than 11 members, with the representation of the University Grants Commission and senior representatives from ICAR, AICTE, ICMR and also some individuals of eminence, for the overall guidance and direction in respect of the schemes of the UGC and the NBT for the preparation and publication of text/reference books for higher education. The directions and guidelines issued by the National Committee, from time to time, will be binding on all mechanisms of coordination particularly the Core Committee established under this memorandum of Understanding. The National Committee would also, inter-alia, produce every year, for publication and dissemination, a report giving a broad evaluation of the publishing scene in relation to text/reference books for higher education and also give a final list of areas of concern for taking promotional action for encouraging preparation and publication of text/reference books for higher education.

The National Committee would meet as often as necessary and evolve its own procedures of functioning. It would, in addition, also evolve appropriate mechanisms for interacting with educational authorities and publishers of various languages. It may constitute sub-committees, teams and task forces as